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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **COUNCILWOMAN MARSHALL HONORS DEDICATED KAILUA MOM**

Kailua resident Ann Medeiros has been honored by the Honolulu City Council for her efforts to get a toddler swing for Pohakupu Park. Councilmember Barbara Marshall, who sponsored the award, says Ann Medeiros is a shining example of how citizens can work to accomplish projects the City cannot afford or doesn't list as a high priority.

Last year, the City removed unsafe playground equipment from many parks islandwide, including Kailua's own Pohakupu Park. In an effort to stretch park dollars, the City replaced toddler swings with equipment for older children. Ann Medeiros is the mother of a toddler, two-and-a-half year old James, and they enjoyed their regular outings at Pohakupu Park. When Ann learned that the City could not replace the toddler swings until after James was not a toddler anymore, she took matters into her own hands.

Ann Medeiros founded the Friends of Pohakupu Park, and set out to raise community awareness- and money- to replace the park's toddler swings. Ann and her group teamed up with concerned citizens, businesses and organizations, contacted the media, and spent months building support- and she did it! Ann raised enough money to pay for a new toddler swing set, including the necessary resilient surface to make it safe. She found people to supply design and building surfaces and even refreshments for the work crews. Pohakupu Park's new toddler swings should be installed by this spring, and will be a tribute to a mom who wouldn't take no- or even later- for an answer.

The Council presented Medeiros with an Honorary Certificate of Recognition at an awards ceremony in the Council Chambers at Honolulu Hale on January 28<sup>th</sup>.